



Six E Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

AL 184

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafford, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

Mr. Jim Bumpus
Argentine Desk
U.S. Dept. of State
Washington, D.C.
20520

November 2, 1977

Dear Mr. Bumpus,

You asked us for an assessment of the recent incidence of disappearances and torture, prior to Secretary Vance's trip to Argentina; I therefore enclose information on cases which have come to our attention over the last several months. Unfortunately, Amnesty International's records on Argentina are not sufficiently comprehensive to generate a well-founded analysis of trends, nor in most instances does the approach we take enable us to make such assessments. However from the evidence available to us, it is apparent that the phenomenon of disappearance is a continuing and serious problem.

I. Disappearances

I understand that during September and October 1977, the following cases have been drawn to the attention of the International Secretariat's Research Department, all involving abduction and subsequent disappearance.

- 1) Mario Tempone, Dean of the School of Architecture, and his wife, in September
- 2) Susana Leda Barco de Surghi, a delegate from the Sindicato de Educadores Privados, abducted on the 18th of October in the Villa Maria area of Cordoba
- 3) Juan Raul Bourg on 5 September, and his wife on 7 September
- 4) Dr. Marta Arguello and Dr. Ana Maria Mascio on September 7 in Cordoba. Dr. Arguello was the attorney for Roque Romero (an AI adopted prisoner) in addition to representing a metalworkers union with Dr. Mascio.
- 5) Laura Pies Daba de Correa, in September, wife of AI adopted prisoner Nestor Correa, who is held in Rawson Prison.
- 6) Hugo Torres, on 7 October, an attorney whose client, Omar Gastellu, is held in Resistencia Prison.
- 7) In late September ten disappearances in Cordoba were reported to Amnesty International, including the cases of Gerardo Luna, Maria Eulalia Cevallos, Norma Vascone, Liliana Lagosian, Gustavo Serra, Maria Angela Tarella, Ricardo Bernasa, Angela

cont

HART CHAIRMAN
BARDWIN
S. W. BRIDGE
VICTOR BRIDGE
MICHAEL STRAIGHT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JOHN HANCOCK, S. CHAIRMAN
JOHN HANCOCK, S. CHAIRMAN
JOHN HANCOCK, S. CHAIRMAN
JOHN HANCOCK, S. CHAIRMAN
JOHN HANCOCK, S. CHAIRMAN
JOHN HANCOCK, S. CHAIRMAN
JOHN HANCOCK, S. CHAIRMAN
JOHN HANCOCK, S. CHAIRMAN
JOHN HANCOCK, S. CHAIRMAN
JOHN HANCOCK, S. CHAIRMAN

DR. HANNA GRUNWALD
DAVID HANLEY
THOMAS JONES
THOMAS JONES
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN
ED. ALBERT JENSEN

REV. WILLIAM WINTER
EDISON TROBOD
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
SENATOR JAMES ASHOUR
PHILIP ARTHUR
JOHN BART
BRO. DANIEL BELL
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON
WILSON BENSON

DAVID CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER
JOHN CARLINER

PROF. JAMES HARRISON
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER
RITA HAUSER

PROF. FRANK NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN
JOHN NEWMAN

800 177
R2, 4853

Alay, Elida Collela, and Hector Cohen.

I. Torture

Amnesty International has in its possession a significant number of recent testimonies, which indicate that torture remains a grave problem. On the basis of testimony presented by Veronica Hancl-Alvarez, senator Solari Yrigoyen, Rodolfo Sanneman and Enrique Rodríguez Areeta and others, it appears that torture continues to be used during interrogation; which takes place in unofficial detention centers. The denial of habeas corpus has, in practice, effectively nullified established procedures devised to protect detainees from ill-treatment during the initial period of detention, when abuses are most likely to occur.

One of the most recent cases where torture was alleged concerns the Deutsch family, members of which were abducted in Córdoba on August 27, 1977. All are alleged to have been severely tortured.

II. Other Areas of Concern

Refugees

Since 1975, there have been a number of instances when the Argentine authorities have apparently handed over political refugees to their country of origin, without any form of due process. During October, AI learned of the transfer to a prison in Resistencia near the Paraguayan border of Paraguayan refugees Epifanio Méndez Fleitas and his son Epifanio Méndez. Past evidence regarding the pattern of refoulement gives rise to considerable fears that they will be forcibly returned to Paraguay. It is our hope that Sr Méndez and his son will be handed over to the UNHCR in Buenos Aires.

It also remains our hope that continued pressure will produce information about the cases of 62 Uruguayan refugees abducted in Buenos Aires during the course of 1976, and who were, according to evidence presented by the UNHCR, victims of massive refoulement. To date neither Argentina nor the Uruguayan Government have accepted responsibility. Amnesty International continues to seek information about the whereabouts of members of this group who are not acknowledged to have reappeared in Uruguay, most notably Gerardo Gatti, Leon Duarte, and Hugo Méndez.

With reference to another aspect of the refugee question, Amnesty urges that families separated by political exile be unified by permitting relatives to join relations abroad.

Release on Humanitarian Grounds

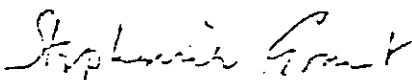
We are particularly concerned about the health of three prisoners, and would encourage any steps which you could take towards their release on humanitarian grounds. Mireja Roja, a lawyer in Villa

stitution, suffers from tuberculosis, is being fed intravenously, reportedly weighs only 37 kilos. Raphael Mario Toer, a sociologist was arrested in November 1975, is now almost totally blind. All persons with whom he was arrested have since been released. ~~Rio Concha Cortes, a Chilean detained in La Plata since November 5,~~ suffers from a serious liver ailment and is known to have sustained considerable brain damage from a car accident prior his arrest.

Finally, we would mention the cases of those individuals whose release would have considerable symbolic importance; we would hope that the right of option would be unconditionally available to them. Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Coordinator of Comicio Paz y Justicia, was detained April 6, 1977 and is held in La Plata. Of similar concern is the case of Dr. Claudio Bertram, arrested in April, 1976, and held virtually incommunicado in Cordoba. A significant and important gesture would be the release of Alfredo Bravo, President of the Permanent Assembly of Human Rights.

As you will readily understand, these cases do not represent a comprehensive list, but rather a cross section of particular instances indicating some areas of our concern.

Sincerely,


Stephanie Grant
Director, Washington Office